

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----019123 142013Z /43

R 141944Z APR 78
FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0781
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USLO PEKING
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USNMR SHAPE BE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 USNATO 03857

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: NATO, CH, KN, KS, UN
SUBJECT: CALLS BY AMBASSADOR KWANG HO AHN OF REPUBLIC OF
KOREA ON AMBASSADOR BENNETT APRIL 12, 1978

REF: (A) USNATO 01684 (NOTAL), (B) USNATO 02232
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1. SUMMARY: DURING APRIL 12 CALL ON AMBASSADOR BENNETT, REPUBLIC OF KOREA (ROK) AMBASSADOR KWANG HO AHN REEMPHASIZED SEOUL'S INTEREST IN DEVELOPING CONTACTS WITH NATO. ADDITIONALLY, AHN DESCRIBED HIS CONTACTS WITH THE RECENTLY DEPARTED PRC AMBASSADOR HUAN HSIANG, WHERE LATTER HAD NOT RULED OUT POSSIBILITY OF EVENTUAL UNITED NATIONS (UN) MEMBERSHIP FOR THE TWO KOREAS. END SUMMARY.

2. AHN WAS CALLING AT HIS REQUEST. AHN CONVEYED TO BENNETT ROK FOREIGN MINISTER PARK'S WARM GREETINGS AND
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APPRECIATION FOR THEIR COOPERATION ON THE KOREAN QUESTION WHEN PARK AND BENNETT HAD SERVED TOGETHER IN NEW YORK AT UN.

3. AHN, IN UNDERLINING SEOUL'S INTEREST IN DEVELOPING CONTACTS WITH NATO, EMPHASIZED THAT NATO SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS HAD TOLD PARK (REF B) THAT NATO CIVILIAN AND MILITARY

OFFICIALS WOULD BE PLEASED TO RECEIVE ROK REPRESENTATIVES. AHN SAID HIS MILITARY ATTACHE WAS IN TOUCH WITH NATO MILITARY OFFICIALS. HE ADDED THAT ROK MILITARY ATTACHES IN SOME NATO COUNTRIES HAD BEEN INVITED TO MANEUVERS. AHN SAID THAT SEOUL IS CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF SEEKING INVITATIONS FOR ROK REPRESENTATIVES TO ATTEND NATO-SPONSORED SYMPOSIA ON ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUBJECTS WHICH MAY BE ATTENDED BY NON-NATO MEMBERS IN OBSERVER STATUS.

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4. AHN ADDED TO POLAD BEFORE LEAVING NATO HEADQUARTERS BUILDING THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG HOON KANG, DEAN OF ROK FOREIGN MINISTRY'S INSTITUTE FOR DIPLOMATIC AND SECURITY AFFAIRS, WOULD BE VISITING BRUSSELS APRIL 26-29 AND THAT AN APPOINTMENT FOR KANG TO MEET WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NATO INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT'S DIVISION OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS WAS IN PROCESS OF ARRANGMENT. AHN NOTED THAT KANG, A FORMER MAJOR GENERAL, HAD ONLY IN VERY RECENT YEARS RETURNED TO KOREA AFTER HAVING MOVED ABROAD AND PURSUED ACADEMIC WORK FOLLOWING THE MILITARY COUP WHICH BROUGHT PRESIDENT PARK TO POWER.

5. AHN MENTIONED THE TITO AND CEAUCESCU TRAVELS TO WASHINGTON AND NOTED THAT BOTH HAD ALSO VISITED PYONG-YANG. AHN DID NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT MESSAGES KIM IL SUNG MAY HAVE SENT PRESIDENT CARTER THROUGH THOSE
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LEADERS MIGHT HERALD SOME SMALL CHANGE IN KIM IL SUNG'S HITHERTO TOTALLY RIGID POSTURE ON THE KOREAN QUESTION. IN REPLY TO BENNETT'S QUESTION, AHN SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THERE HAD BEEN ABSOLUTELY NO PROGRESS IN THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF THE RED CROSS TALKS. ACCORDING TO AHN, THE MOST RECENTLY SCHEDULED MEETING IN THAT SERIES HAD BEEN PUT OFF BY THE NORTH DUE TO THE LARGE SCALE US-ROK MANEUVERS EARLIER THIS YEAR. BENNETT THEN REASSURED AHN THAT US-NORTH KOREAN MEETINGS ARE OUT OF THE QUESTION WITHOUT ROK PARTICIPATION. BENNETT ALSO RECALLED OUR VIEW THAT WESTERN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA SHOULD DEPEND ON RECOGNITION OF THE ROK BY ALLIES OF NORTH KOREA. AHN APPRECIATED THIS.

6. AHN, WHO HAS BEEN IN BRUSSELS FOR TWO YEARS, SAID SEOUL SUPPORTED PEKING-TOKYO RAPPROACHMENT (REF B), WHILE AT THE SAME TIME HOPING FOR JAPANESE RATIFICATION OF THE ROK-JAPANESE TREATY ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF, AN AGREEMENT WHICH PEKING HAS ATTACKED.

7. AHN SAID HE HAD DEVELOPED QUITE GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH PRC AMBASSADOR HUAN HSIANG, WHO ONLY RECENTLY HAD DEPARTED BRUSSELS FOR PEKING. AHN ADDED THAT HE HAD RAISED WITH HUAN HSIANG THE POSSIBILITY OF UN MEMBERSHIP FOR THE TWO KOREAS ALONG LINES OF THE GERMAN PRECEDENT. AHN STRESSED THAT HUAN HSIANG HAD NOT REJECTED THIS IDEA OUT OF HAND, BUT RATHER HAD MAINTAINED THAT SUCH THINGS REQUIRED SOME TIME TO WORK OUT. AHN CONSIDERED HIS CONTACTS WITH HUAN HSIANG TO HAVE BEEN UNIQUE AND THE ONLY ONES BETWEEN ROK AND PRC DIPLOMATS.

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EXDIS

8. WHEN BENNETT ASKED IF AHN HAD TALKED WITH WARSAW PACT REPRESENTATIVES, AHN SAID HE HAD HAD NO CONVERSATIONS ON MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE WITH SOVIET OR OTHER WARSAW PACT CHIEFS OF MISSION. AHN COMMENTED THAT, WHILE SUCH REPRESENTATIVES WERE CORDIAL ENOUGH AT DIPLOMATIC FUNCTIONS, NONE HAD EVER INDICATED READINESS FOR AN EXCHANGE ON A MATTER OF SUBSTANCE. GLITMAN

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